

REVISED

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## NEW JERSEY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

### CODE OF ETHICS

In accordance with Section 12e of the "New Jersey Conflicts of Interest Law" a Code of Ethical Standards is hereby promulgated.

The New Jersey Conflicts of Interest Law provides that violations of this Code of Ethics shall be cause for removal, suspension, demotion, or other disciplinary action by the State officer or agency having the designated power for such action.

Whereas the role and purpose of the New Jersey Historical Commission being to carry out, encourage and assist "activities concerned with State history" (18A:73-22), each member of the Commission or special State officer or employee shall be expected to perform his assigned duties with the highest regard for the ethical and moral standards of his profession, craft, or trade, in a manner that shall enhance the image and stature of himself, the Commission, and the State Department of Education.

1. No special State officer or employee should have any interest, financial or otherwise, direct or indirect, or engage in any business or transaction or professional activity, which is in substantial conflict with the proper discharge of his duties in the public interest.

2. No special State officer or employee should engage in any particular business, profession, trade or occupation which is subject to licensing or regulation by a specific agency of State Government without promptly filing notice of such activity, through the Commissioner of Education, with the Executive Commission on Ethical Standards.

3. No special State officer or employee should use or attempt to use his official position to secure unwarranted privileges or advantages for himself or others.

4. No special State officer or employee should act in his official capacity in any matter wherein he has a direct or indirect personal financial interest that might reasonably be expected to impair his objectivity or independence of judgement.

5. No special State officer or employee should undertake any employment or service, whether compensated or not, which might reasonably, be expected to impair his objectivity and independence of judgment in the exercise of his official duties.

6. No special State officer or employee should accept any gift, favor, service or other thing of value under circumstances from which it might be reasonably inferred that such gift, service, or other thing of value was given or offered for the purpose of influencing him in the discharge of his official duties.

7. No special State officer or employee shall willfully disclose to any person any information not generally available to members of the public which he receives or acquires in the course of and by reason of his official duties.

8. The State Department of Education and the New Jersey Historical Commission recognize that under our democratic form of government public officials and employees should be drawn from all of our society, that citizens who serve in government cannot and should not be expected to be without any personal interest in the decisions and policies of government; that citizens who are government officials and employees have a right to private interest of a personal, financial, and economic nature; that standards of conduct should separate those conflicts of interest which are unavoidable in a free society from those conflicts of interest which are substantial and material, or which bring government into disrepute.

9. This code shall be construed as according with the law establishing the New Jersey Historical Commission and requiring appointment to the Commission of public members "all of whom shall be chosen by reason of their expertise in New Jersey history and qualified by academic achievement or professional affiliation."

10. This code shall apply to the members of the New Jersey Historical Commission. The compensated employees of the Commission shall be governed by the Code of Ethics of the Department of Education.